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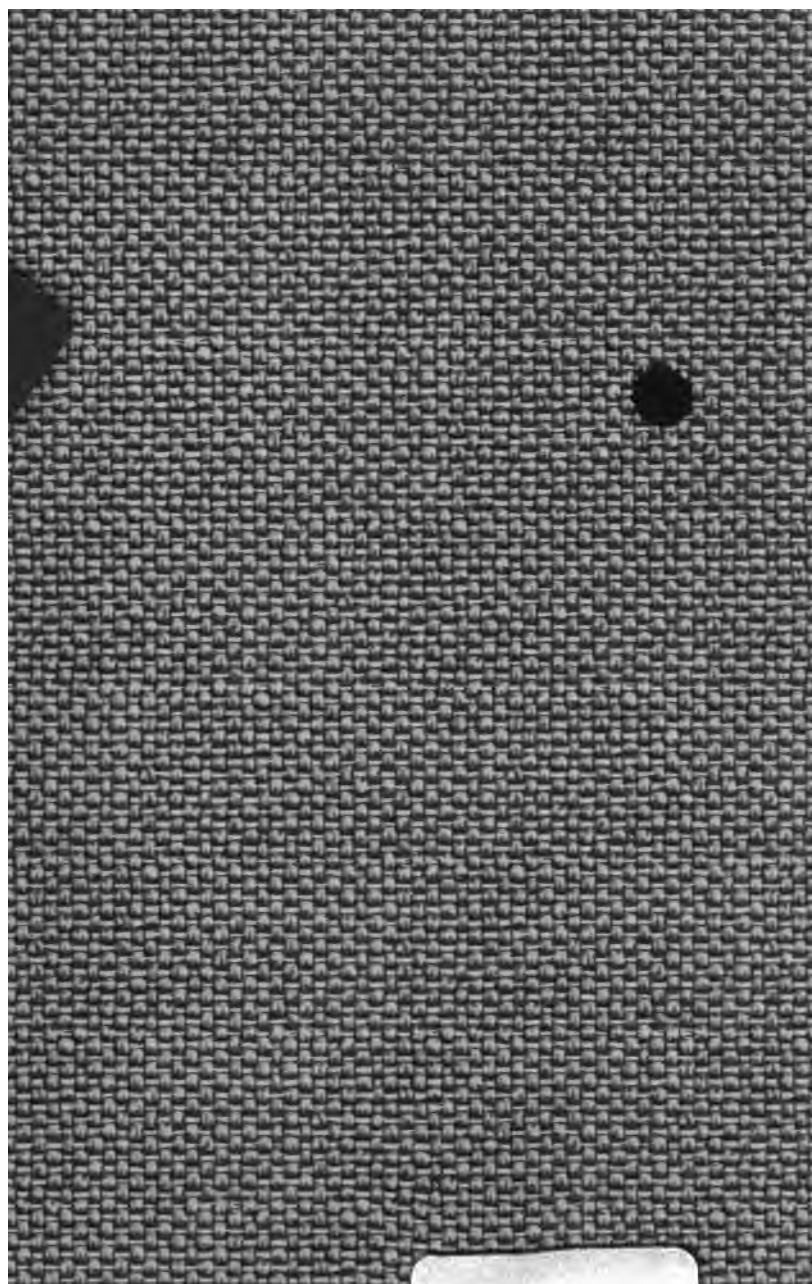
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# SECENTRICITIES

By  
WALTER SONNEBERG

AND J. H. HINDSON



Amel M. L. L. L.

1. *Gyphosinus Americanus*

1911









1870

1870



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# **SOCIAL ECCENTRICITIES**

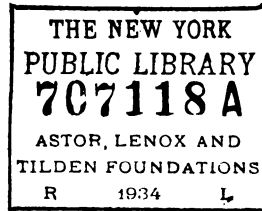
**MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED EPI-  
GRAMS—EACH ONE INSPIRATION FOR  
A SERMON, AN ESSAY OR A PLAY**

**By WALTER SONNEBERG**



*Illustrated by Wm. L. Hudson*

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Of all the arts which grace or greed inspires,  
The art of seeking Truth scarce ever tires.

WILSON JAN 3 4





## SOCIAL ECCENTRICITIES.

**S**PEAKING of honesty, any policy is better than insurance.



**I**F marriage was not a lottery few people would venture the contract.



**T**HE simple life consists in reconciling complexities.



**S**CIENCE can move mountains, but it cannot move mole-hills.



**T**IS rather conceit than conscience which makes cowards of us.



**N**EITHER the giving of colleges nor the donation of hospitals will spare a man the scrutiny of Peter.



**I**F jails are planned for rogues, why are churches built?



**V**IRTUE is comparative, not positive.



**E**VOOLUTION is readily accepted as a theory because it implies that we are approaching perfection.



**T**AINTED money gets its taint rather from the recipient than from the donor.



**A** WOMAN'S mental reservations in conversation with a man are as the spaces between the dots on a stock-broker's tape.

SOME people are eccentric by inclination;  
others by imitation.



MEN enter into competition with Nature  
without in the least understanding the  
rules of the game.



THE measure of a man's conscience is his  
egotism.



IT is a fad to renovate outworn reputa-  
tions: hence Lucretia Borgia has been  
clothed in all the virtues of the Seven Vir-  
gins.



SOCIALISM seeks to abolish the law of  
cause and effect.



WEAKNESS invites tyranny.



**OUT** of the mouths of the ignorant comes  
the most humorous wisdom.



**SACRIFICES** are only sweet when needed.



**THOSE** who are ready to believe anything  
are ready to believe the worst.



**THE** cause of any event may be traced to a  
thousand unsuspected sources.



**WOMAN'S** right to work should not be  
questioned; she was born the weaker  
vessel.



**COMMERCE** has taken the place of chiv-  
alry as a cause of war.



**IF** the ape was our ancestor, all living mon-  
keys should be enrolled among the  
"400."

THE false prophet looks into the past and thinks he sees the future.



EQUALITY ended with the "*Original Sin.*"



AULTURATION stimulates business; what odds what happens to the businesssee!



THE empty soul requires constant external applications of diversion.



AN alliance is an agreement to be good until abrogated.



AME dealt too kindly with Byron; he could not have been so deliciously wicked as he is pictured.

**L**OVE can read beauty into hideousness.



**T**HE microbe is more frightful than the  
Megalosaurus.



**T**HOSE who cringe to the great, bully the  
little.



**O**UR moral code is double-edged; it smiteth  
those who obey and scourgeth those who  
disobey.



**M**OST fortunate is the theatrical manager  
who can anticipate the public pulse.



**P**REJUDICES, rather than men or meas-  
ures, make partisans.



**N**OTHING is so annoying as a too active  
gas-meter.





**E**XPERIENCE seldom teaches; it merely makes a convenient hook upon which to hang moral tags.



**F**ORTITUDE frightens mischance.



**W**HAT the trusts leave undone in the way of oppression the labor unions step in and consummate.



**A**PROPOS Senatorial elections, can we expect Capital to relinquish its right to elect its own representatives?

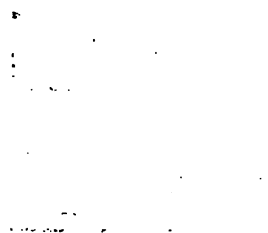


**T**RUTH masquerades in so many shapes that she is seldom recognized.



**I**F children could choose their own parents many would spend a lifetime in the choosing.







**A**FTER grotesque struggles with spinach and strawberries the suburbanite leaves farming to the farmers.

**A** KNOWLEDGE of coming perfection  
nips the prospect in the bud.



**T**O be blackmailed is not as embarrassing  
as to be discovered.



**F**OSSILS tell a tale which the veriest child  
might build into a novel.



**A**FTER grotesque struggles with spinach  
and strawberries the suburbanite leaves  
farming to the farmers.



**F**AR greater than a king is the uninvesti-  
gated politician.



**H**ISTORY is the science of reconciling fact  
and fiction.

**T**RADITION spoils more minds than does  
whiskey.

**R**IGHT and wrong are interchangeable  
twins.

**I**T is human nature to do whatever human  
nature does.

**W**EALTH—minus Poverty equals Rebate.

**E**ACH generation prefers to make its own  
mistakes.

**E**THNOLOGY maketh strange bed-fellows.

**A**CCORDING to the scientists there is no  
such word as mortality.

**C**IVIL courts are for the trial of gentleman criminals only.



**S**OME people have a soul so diminutive that they are ashamed to admit its presence.



**R**ACE suicide is a matter for the grocer and merchant to wrestle with.



**N**O battle is so great as that which a man fights over himself and wins.



**A**SKEPTIC believes so fully in himself that he has no opportunity to believe in aught else.



**S**ANITATION, curiously enough, may push sanity to the extreme.

**T**RADITION spoils more minds than does  
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**A**SKEPTIC believes so fully in himself that he has no opportunity to believe in aught else.



**S**ANITATION, curiously enough, may push sanity to the extreme.



**T**HE Social Evil is the evil in which the particular individual in question does not participate.

✱

**B**EFORE the proposal father-in-law looms up large; after the marriage mother-in-law has her innings; in the interim brother-in-law reaps his harvest.

✱

**W**HAT follies are perpetrated in the name of wisdom!

✱

**I**T is easier to boost a man who is up than assist a man who is down, because we all loath low places.

✱

**R**ECIPROCITY is a give and take, with the emphasis on the *take*.

✱

**N**ATURE must have many a laugh at her disciples' antics.

**N**OTHING so unmans a man as a woman.



**C**ONSCIENCE is a thing of the past; the very latest substitute is psychological perception.



**A**MBITION, cleverness, successfulness; these are the cardinal virtues.



**S**HOULD the vices of prosperity be balanced against the vices of adversity a sharp-eyed Justice must needs detect the heavier.



**C**UPID is forestalled by the Penates.



**I**N a highly developed society the highly developed social animal wins out every time.

**A** FOOL is satisfied with part payment in heated atmosphere; the wise man insists upon coin of the realm.



**P**HILANTHROPY is the mark of a remorseful, not a moral, age.



**R**EASON mocks instinct, yet is indebted to instinct for much of its reputation.



**T**RUSTS make monsters of men.



**W**HAT a lot of trouble people take to accumulate baggage which will be useless at their journey's end!



**T**HE Individual is nothing, the State is nothing; nothing and nothing make nothing.

**Y**OUR dislike of titles is due to non-possession.



**A** UNIVERSITY without football is like unto a needle without thread.



**T**HE miraculous in nature is merely something which we cannot understand.



**A**N exaggeration is a prematurely born lie.



**D**EMOCRACY divorces ostentation and forms a new union with emulation.



**A** MAN'S actions and his motives bear but a distant relation.



**T**HE "Boss" is a Prince of Princes.

**F**REE love would upset the commercial interests—that's why it is impracticable.



**N**O doubt the Devil smiles at "Revivals"—if there is one.



**W**HERE Fashion decrees the millionaire alone may disobey.



**A**N unpublished secret is dearer to the heart of the blackmailer than a thousand reputations.



**'T**IS most evil to do evil: 'Tis more evil yet to be found out.




**T**HE way of the tax evader is Jerseyward—if he be a New Yorker.




**W**HEN hope to rival Nature in the creation business forgetful of Frankenstein.


**W**NE needs a shorter apprenticeship for the making of laws than for the making of shoes.




**H**AD Carlyle lived in these "Digestall" days we should never have had "Sartor Resartus."




**I**T is better to be president than get left.



**B**EFORE the War the negro was an example! now he is a problem.



**M**YSTICISM consists in having no motive and then disguising the fact from the public.



**T**HE sanity of genius is a matter for Midas to determine.

**S**OME of the people want to be swindled all the time, and others occasionally become indignant.



**T**HE emancipation of woman has left her freer than she originally designed.



**A** MILLIONAIRE'S mail would furnish food for many a starving family.



**S**O long as we do not see the hideousness of cities we do not know that it is there.



**I**T is sometimes selfish to give and self-glorifying to receive.



**R**ELIGION would take into its breast its ancient enemy Science—the Dove would master the Lion.

EVERY lecturer deals with the most *vital* subject.



MEN fight for the right to vote and then fight to escape the responsibility.



IT is better to be a beat than to be beaten.



THE majority can never be right long; it changes its opinion too often.



PROSPERITY putteth friendship to a severe test.



REPUTATION is as the fallen snow; to-day bright and beautiful, to-morrow dirty and diseased.



IT is an open question whether the Union should trust the Trust, or the Trust unite with the Union.



**I**F trade was free all the zest would be gone,



**T**HE successful man attributes his success to himself; the unsuccessful man charges Fate with his failure.



**N**ERVOUS prostration is the offspring of a heterogeneous compound of Progressive Euchre, Bargain Sale, and Sea Shore Vacation.



**D**UAL Personality avails the married man not when he arrives home late at night.



**T**HE American pie and American piety contribute in equal parts to an early death rate.



**B**LUFF, graft and bribery; these are the instruments of monopoly.

**M**ILLIONS were given last year in charity;  
how many millions were accrued un-  
charitably?



**T**HOSE laws only apply to us which we  
are least likely to transgress.



**I**F the end justified the means probably the  
world would be depopulated.



**O**BSCURITY begetteth peace, and promi-  
nence, pence.



**O**NE who seldom judges makes few mis-  
taken judgments.



**C**HINA has not been so easily broken as the  
optimists imagined.

**T**HE Problem Play and the Sociological Novel makes heroes of us all.



**S**ILENCE cheers the virtuous and chastens the vicious.



**T**O be interviewed is preferable to being lampooned.



**T**HE difference between Historical Romance and Romantic History is that the former is inaccurate and the latter scarcely less so.



**P**OLITICIANS are as other men ; they appear corrupt by reason of added opportunities and divided responsibilities.



**S**ELF-ADVERTISEMENT covers a multitude of deficiencies,

**I**F laws were clubs then crime would be crushed by the mere weight of them.

✱

**N**OTHING so pleases a woman as to sacrifice herself unnecessarily—the more unnecessary the more pleasure.

✱

**K**LEPTOMANIA marks our advance in politeness.

✱

**W**E look at other people's troubles through the large end of the telescope.

✱

**S**PECTACULAR plays are applauded for their unreality.

✱

**T**HE prospective curiosity of future generations spurs the prolific letter writer.

**W**IT is when you see the point.



**H**E is either a brave man or a clout who runs counter to opinion.



**R**EFORMS are born of impulse, and therefore seldom long survive.



**M**EMENTOS of the great departed remind us of—our foolishness.



**T**HERE is one consolation about this avalanche of print; it is too ill done to be digested.



**A** GENTLEMAN is a male combination of feminine manners and neuter tastes.



**T**HERE never was a speech so extempore but that ancient history knew its counterpart.

**O**UR ancestors were too young in life to have known much.



**T**HE obstacle to minding your own business is in defining the extent of that business: friends, neighbors, citizens, countrymen and foreigners burden some people's conscience.



**E**VERY man rides his hobby until thrown.



**B**ALOONING threatens the contractor's sinecure.



**T**RAVELLING lengthens the bill and enlarges the cranium.



**B**ACK to Nature" means a strenuous struggle with irreconcilable ingredients.

**T**HE child sees straight; the man sees  
around the corner.



**S**OME people never loose their illusions,  
others never had any.



**W**ITHOUT Vanity, Society would be bank-  
rupt.



**D**ESPITE the prejudiced, it is still possible  
to be at once religious and virtuous.



**P**LAGIARISM is universal and its evasion  
common.



**I**N proportion as a man exaggerates a  
woman's virtues before marriage does  
he perceive her vices after.

**M**ACHINE-GUNS have dulled the lustre  
of the soldier's coat.



**N**CESSITY no more fathered Invention  
than did Noah create the Flood.



**T**HE fairy tale is the stuff of which chil-  
dren are made.



**W**HEN a man gets run down he goes to  
Florida; when he gets wound up he  
goes to the other extreme.



**G**REAT men are great by virtue of our con-  
cession.



**P**HILANTHROPY does not attack men  
till after they have gained riches.



**R**EBATES are publicly unconstitutional  
and privately judicial.



'TIS worse to be suspected than to be guilty.



CHESTERFIELDIAN advice profiteth not the fool.



EVERY man identified with the French Revolution was the hero of it according to his biographer.



THE Bible *was* a sacred book; is *now* a history; and promises *to be* a realistic novel.



PRECOCITY ends in premature dullness.



PUNDITS quarrel over the motive of a poem which never had any motive.



TAXATION is so hateful that most people prefer to pay double the price some other way.

**T**RANSIT companies make disciples for the church.



**W**ALL STREET is the Safety Valve of the American Boiler.



**A**LL men are honest until taken otherwise.



**F**RIENDSHIP is a compromise with convenience.



**T**HE obscure man has to do his own reviling; the prominent man leaves that duty to others.



**T**O the conceits of science there is no end.



**T**HE best way to cover up a political scandal is to "investigate" it.

**A** CROWD is no stronger than its weakest unit.



**T**HE less able a man is to govern himself the more anxious is he to govern his fellows.



**C**ONVENTIONALITY is the seed of which unhappiness is the fruit.



**T**HERE is not a man so practical as to withstand his favorite passion.



**T**HE depraved murderer gets more boquets than the enlightened philosopher.



**S**PURN not the poor man, for to-morrow he may be rich.

**T**LATTER not the rich man, for to-morrow  
he may be poor.



**T**RUSTS engender fraud both in those who  
buy and those who sell.



**R**EAL snow storms are the acme of his-  
trionic art.



**P**ATRIOTISM declined with the rise of  
commercialism.



**A**N hypothesis is a theory with a false label.



**A**ESTHETICISM abhors a superabun-  
dance.



**E**ATING with the wrong fork debars a  
man from the kingdom of earth.

**W**E introduce an evil and pride ourselves upon its partial elimination afterwards.



**T**HE old fool seems worse because men are hopeful.



**R**ELIGION has foresworn instinct and made terms with logic.



**P**OLITICAL science is the favorite science: viz., ignorance is no handicap.



**A** REVOLUTION is right only when it is successful.



**A** BACHELOR often wonders whether it is envy or enjoyment which prompts his married friends to tempt him to do likewise.





**P**AIN is a blessing for which the  
dentist offers daily thanks.

**E**ARNING is cheaply purchased at the  
expense of the anthologist and reviewer.



**L**IGHT-HEADED persons float readily  
with the stream.



**O**RGANIZATION is opposed to order.



**I**T is folly to be foolish.



**P**SYCHOLOGY locates the seat of thought,  
but despairs to trace the source of  
thoughtlessness.



**P**AIN is a blessing for which the dentist  
offers daily thanks.



**T**HE X-Ray and Radium were each to have  
created a revolution; the earth is still  
revolving.



**T**HIEVES stick together in order to maintain the market price.



**I**LL-GOTTEN wealth fattens on the superstition of the poor.



**A** MAN falls in love with a particular woman, not because she is particularly lovable, but in that he is doomed to fall in love with some one.



**T**EN grafters make a clique; ten cliques make a gang; ten gangs make a city—revolt.



**M**ANY talk and none listen.



**T**HE people who think the world a stage stray inadvertently to the lime-light.

**A** MAN can be more safely judged by his enemies than by his friends.



**E**QUALITY is a term with which we reproach our inferiors.



**M**AGES are regulated by the ability of the employer to jolly his employees.



**I**N a Court of Common Pleas, Republic vs. Constitutional Monarchy would be non-suited.



**D**EGENERATION was unknown until regeneration began to be talked about.



**K**LEPTOMANIA is after the event.



**T**HE "Survival of the Fittest" means the survival of the survivor.

**W**HAT worse curse to humanity than a universal language!



**P**ATENT medicines promise to solve the problem of local option.



**B**RIBERY is the touch-stone which legitimizes monopoly.



**W**ARFARE is becoming so destructive that the audience fears for its continuance.



**G**ENERALISATIONS cannot but be false.



**T**HE moral lecturer winds up by telling us that the bad might be worse and thus helps to make it so.



**W**E hesitate to lick a postage stamp, but beat a car company without compunction.

**C**OLLEGE presidents are financiers first  
and educators afterward.



**A**UDACITY is mistaken for genius.



**S**USPECT the too courteous man; he is  
like to pay with interest in private the  
debt he lavishly acquires in public.



**T**HE difference between the exports and im-  
ports of a nation represents its wealth—  
extensive poverty notwithstanding.



**E**ACH new disease improves our claim to  
civilization.



**O**PPORTUNITY knocks at some doors  
lightly and at others lingeringly.

**A** MISDEMEANOR is a chrysallis crime.



**C**ONVERSATION labors to produce a whirlwind, and lo! a gentle sigh is born.



**V**ILLAINS are not scarcer in Heaven than sincerity in a ball-room.



**C**HRISTIAN SCIENCE is repudiated by Scientists and renounced by Christians.



**T**HE lobbyist essays to guide the legislator through the labyrinths of the law.



**N**ERO could not have surmised the turpitude for which he would be made to stand sponsor.



**W**E might believe the college graduate to be a real knight errant did he not succumb at the first wind-mill.

**C**IVIL SERVICE educates the politicians  
in the ways of Mephistopheles.



**T**O bottle all the wasted human pow'rs  
Would shame Niag'ras flow for untold  
hours.



**T**HAT which is good in us we owe to our-  
selves; that which is evil we owe to  
heredity.



**T**HE manufacturer of health food is usually  
healthy enough to dispense with it.



**P**OETRY declined with the rise of adver-  
tisements.



**M**UNICIPAL ownership appeals particu-  
larly to those who are not capable of  
managing their own business.

**P**ESSIMISM is the flower of which disappointment is the bud.



**T**HE book which inspires an apology deserves perusal.



**T**IS not enough to hold four aces; tact and discrimination might beat two pairs.



**T**HE world would not contain the Hall of Fame  
Were mothers all the candidates to name.



**T**HE Panama Canal had best be locked, else foreigners will be too free with it.



**C**HARITY finds its merit not so much in the Principle as in the Press.

**T**HE laws of man are more feared than the laws of God because the punishment is more immediate.



**A**N after-dinner speech is an affliction both upon him who hears and him who speaks. ✓



**O**RIGINALITY ravages the law of order.



**A** JEALOUS husband compliments himself upon his discrimination.




**T**HE longer the report of the "Investigating Committee" the less liable are people to read it.




**S**ANENESS is to madness most nearly ally'd;  
The line between no compass can divide.




**T**HE bones of a murderer are dearer to the morbid in heart than a thousand souls.




**F**UTURE generations would rather revile than revere us for anticipating them in the discovery of the North Pole.




**D**ISTRUST issues from a damaged mind.



**J**UDGING by the number of books on morality our morals are sadly in need of repair.




**G**REATER than the circumference of the earth must be the life-preserver which will hold the heads of the submerged tenth permanently above the waters.




**T**HE balance of power is with the greatest diplomatic spellbinder.


**N**EVER was there a poet's life so pure  
That would a ready sale his works en-  
sure.




**W**HERE everyone is responsible no one is  
responsible; that's why trusts are suc-  
cessful.




**G**RAND OPERA appeals to the woman  
with a new dress.



**Q**UESTIONS of science will only be set-  
tled when the last scientist is dead.



**T**HE sporting man scents a fox in every  
cover.



**D**AY dreams are woven with the thread of  
dead illusions through the warp of im-  
mortal hopes.

**W**E vituperate chivalry because we cannot  
compass it.



**T**IS with no thought of cheating themselves  
that people cheat the government.



**I**D the eye see all that the mind suggest  
Then ne'r a virgin on her pillow rest.



**I**T sometimes requires more courage to be  
a man than to be a martyr.



**F**REEDOM taxes our obligations higher  
than dependency.



**N**EWTON stands responsible for much  
grave trespassing upon Nature.



**R**EALISM and Idealism differ solely in the  
view-point.

THERE is no greater cruelty than that  
which tenderness can devise.

•

PHILOSOPHY intimidates the unphil-  
osophical.

•

A BON VIVANT is differentiated from a  
glutton by nice table manners.

•

WHO braves the crass approval of the crowd  
Weaves with his hand his own condemn-  
ing shroud.

•

THE thornless cactus and the seedless plum  
run a fruitless race with Nature.

•

SERVANTS come and go, but their wage  
runs on forever.

**V**IRTUE is never so seductive as when in  
vagabond attire.



**A**STRONOMERS see stranger things than  
do inebrates.



**A** WOMAN fears to be found out; a man  
fears not to be.



**W**HATEVER is "natural" is not necessarily  
necessary.



**T**HERE is the man who could not reorgan-  
ize society on a better basis ?



**I**F he is a fellow it is felony; if he is a gen-  
tleman it's gambling.



**A**FFECTED unconventionality approaches  
the conventional.

**T**HE Christian pill which we offer to the Chinese is but thinly coated with the spirit of Christ.



**E**VIL cannot be legislated out of existence; it must be executed.



**A**RUSE by any other name would be more vulgar.



**S**ENTIMENTALITY is a poor substitute for sympathy.



**D**IPLOMACY is the salt of business.



**S**OCIETY doth scan the veins 'tis true,  
But rather of the gold than of the blue.



**T**HE "Yellow Peril" has made no visible impression as yet on our collar button holes.

**H**YSTERIA feeds on the shreds of superstition.



**T**O what boredom will not people submit under the guise of amusement!



**M**ASS and class change sides so rapidly that a conflict is unlikely.



**L**ITERATURE, like dry goods, has become shoddy under expert manipulation.



**T**HE pen of a reporter has power to transform a pistol shot into a cannonade.



**A**DVERTISING is paid for by the public as a premium for buying things it does not want.



**A**SERMON has evolved into a combination opera—picture-gallery—lecture.

**T**HE difference between a revolution and a riot lies in the imagination.



**E**XTRAVAGANT preliminary marriage festivities premonate the prevalence of unhappy unions.



**R**EFINEMENT shudders at a beggar and welcomes the sycophant.



**N**O relic is too high for the American to reach.



**S**OME men are born to lead and others are bound to be led.



**M**OTHERS' congresses discuss everything except the proper raising of children.



**C**IVILIZATION had as many beginnings  
as the traditional debutante's recitation.



**T**HE more appalling the murderer the more  
"appealing" his case.



**M**ORE wise even, than wisdom, is the folly  
of the fool.



**S**PEAKETH verbosely, and with much  
eloquence, and people will never trouble  
to question your understanding.



**T**HE dying words of a hero are invariably  
vital.



**I**F "Natural Selection" was really a factor  
in our production the discernment of  
some of our ancestors must be severely  
impugned.

**T**AXED equally, we will be equally unhappy.



**T**HE more particular women grow in choosing a husband, the less particular men become in improving their eligibility.



**C**OMMERCE makes us all humane.



**O**NE man's sin is another man's singularity.



**T**HE Daughters of the American Revolution dutifully sow seeds of discord.



**M**EMORIALS and Petitions tax the capacity—of the Senatorial waste paper basket.



**A** GOOD argument for holding the Philippines is that the natives are not capable of holding it themselves.

**T**HE working man arouses our abstract sympathy and inspires our concrete repugnance.



**T**ELEPATHY is the science of avoiding needy friends.



**B**ENEVOLENCE was invented to hoodwink our better selves.



**A**N epigram, to please, must teem with wit;  
Must praise each reader, and his neighbor hit.

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**A** GOOD argument for holding the Philippines is that the natives are not capable of holding it themselves.

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